



# STATE OF IOWA

GOVERNOR TERRY E. BRANSTAD  
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BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS  
DUANE T. MAGEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 29, 2015

Superintendents, Directors of Area Education Agencies, and Directors of Special Education:

For many years the alignment of Iowa's Special Education endorsements have been a mismatch with the Special Education delivery system. Iowa's Special Education endorsements are aligned with the severity and specific disability type, while the service delivery system is entirely based on eligibility for Special Education services. Districts and the state have struggled with establishing clear criteria when a specific endorsement was required to teach any specific student or group of students.

In the spring of 2014, the Iowa Department of Education released its Alternate Assessment Guidelines (see attached). One of the criteria for participation in the Alternate Assessment is the student must be identified as having a "significant cognitive disability." The only endorsement currently available with authorization to direct instructional services for students with significant cognitive (intellectual) disabilities is the K-12 Instructional Strategist II: ID (MD) endorsement.

Therefore, beginning with the 2015-16 school year, teachers responsible for directing educational services for students being assessed under the Alternate Assessment must hold the K-12 Instructional Strategist II: ID (MD) or hold an Administrative Decision/Class B license while completing the necessary coursework for this endorsement.

For information on applying for the K-12 Instructional Strategist II: ID (MD) or conditional license for the 2015-16 school year, contact Mike Cavin at (515) 281-3437 or [Mike.Cavin@iowa.gov](mailto:Mike.Cavin@iowa.gov).

Sincerely,

Duane Magee,  
Executive Director, Board of Educational Examiners

DTM/mc